Experiences with Preliminary Design Guidance (PDG) for sustainable development of hydropower on the Mekong

Dr. Daovong Phonekeo
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR
Understanding the needs of Lao PDR

- The Lao government has the vision and set the priority to lift its people out of poverty and graduate from LDC status by 2020 according to Global Goals or the 17+1 SDG’s.
- We have to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. And now within the power sector, energy generation from renewable sources has become increasingly significant.
- We contribute 41% of the flow into the Mekong river (more than any other countries).
- Therefore, sustainable hydropower development is extremely important. It is opportunity, it transforms lives, economy and the environment.
In the context of 1995 Mekong Agreement

- So far, 3 mainstream hydropower projects were submitted and successfully completed the required Prior Consultations.
- We openly engage with our neighbors and other stakeholders as part of PNPCA process.
- All technical, environmental and social survey reports were made available to experts as well as to the public for comments/feedbacks.
- GOL recruited independent Consultants to review the compliance with PDG before submission.
Experiences & Lessons learn

• PDG is useful to minimize the review efforts on project documents submitted
• The topics for consultation and discussion are of transboundary aspects
• Based on PDG and reviewing processes, several improvements on project designs were made so making project sustainability increased.
• It provides a good platform for continuity in the review process and methodology for future mainstream projects
• Provide excellent opportunity to share and learn from each other among the international specialists/experts as well as for the national staffs of Member Countries
Experiences & Lessons learn (cont’)

- **PDG** shall not be considered as either bible nor standard
- For successful consultation and review, **Openness** and **Flexibility** are crucial
- **Increasing** the time for project development
- **Additional cost** to the project development cost, **less income** for the country
- Nevertheless, the **Spirit of Cooperation** prevails
Thank You for Your Kind Attention